

**ABSTRACT**

This invention relates to a method for assaying activity of the enzyme spermidine/spermine N<sup>1</sup>-acetyltransferase (SSAT) using SSAT substrates by detecting acetylated forms of the SSAT substrates. SSAT substrates may include amantadine wherein metabolism of amantadine occurs in part by the action of the inducible enzyme SSAT to produce the acetylated metabolite N-acetylamantadine.

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